

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, and 7 remain in the application and claims 1 and 5 have been amended hereby. Claims 2 and 6 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. New claim 10 has been added.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Reeder in view of Oshima et al.

Features of the software program providing system for managing access to a software program are a database (Fig. 1) for storing individual information of a user (52 in Fig. 1), a plurality of supplemental pay functions (53 in Fig. 1), e.g. print quality outputs, purchased counts (54 in Fig. 1), and used counts (55 in Fig. 1). A fee is charged for adding purchased counts to access a selected one of the plurality of supplemental pay functions.

Independent claims 1 and 5 have been amended to recite these features of the present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Reeder and Oshima et al. fails to show or suggest a database for storing individual information of a user, a plurality of supplemental pay functions, purchased counts and used counts, and charging a fee for adding purchased counts for accessing a selected

one of the plurality of supplemental pay functions.

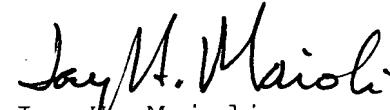
Reeder is merely charging a user for use of a program, see page 7, lines 22-29 of Reeder and, because there are no features in Oshima et al. that somehow could be combined with Reeder and result in the presently claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 5, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over Reeder in view of Oshima et al.

For at least the above-noted reasons, new independent claim 10 is submitted to be patentably distinct over the cited art.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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